

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the specification at page 1, at line 3, please insert the following:

-- RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a national stage application (under 35 U.S.C. 371) of PCT/EP03/008465, filed on July 31, 2003 which claims benefit to Italian application no. RM2002A000411 filed August 1, 2002. --

In the specification at page 1, line 13 through line 25 please amend the paragraph as follows:

Their preparation is described by Prelog (1)Haas G. and Prelog V., Helv. Chim. Acta (1969) 52, pp. 1202-1218 and their applications are described in Aviram A., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (1988) 110, pp. 5687-92 Aviram (2).

The SBFs are a class of organic molecules that can be used instead of their corresponding inorganic species in the arrangement and production of electronic circuits and switches.

The patent US 5.840.217 describes derivatives of SBF for use as materials for electroluminescence.

The inventors have now found a class of compounds, derivatives of SBF, with particularly interesting chemical-physical characteristics for use in the field of molecular electronics. The general term molecular electronics refers to the technical field in which organic molecular species can be used for electronic applications Molecular Electronics: science and technology" Aviram A. and Ratner M. editors, Annals of the New York Academy of Science, Vol. 1852 (1998) applications (3), comprising the techniques of electroluminescence and photoluminescence.

Please amend page 5, line 29 through page 6, line 3 as follows:

A method for preparing the compounds of the invention is based on the use as starting product of the non-functionalised SBF (formula (I)). The method involves the following stages: addition, by means of standard methods (~~e.g. described in (4)~~) (e.g. described in Gore P. H., Chem. Rev. (1955), 55, pp. 229-271), of A-C=OCl, with A having the above-mentioned meaning, to the non-functionalised SBF (formula (I)). Optimal conditions for obtaining the required compounds are within the capabilities of any technician in the field. A general preparation is given in the following in the experimental part.

Please amend page 6, lines 22-24, as follows:

The radical anions of the compounds (VII), (VIIIa, VIIIb), (IX) and (Xa, Xb) are particularly preferred. The electrochemical method for obtaining the radical anions in general is described in (5) described in “Organic Electrochemistry”, Lund H. and Hammerich O. Eds., Marcel Dekker Inc, NY, 4<sup>a</sup> Ed., (2001).

Please amend page 7, lines 28 through page 8, line 2, as follows:

In fact it has been observed that the insertion of the C=O functional group results in a considerable improvement of the property of the molecule as it increases its “electron-acceptor” characteristics, shifting the standard potential,  $E^\circ$ , of the molecule towards more positive (lower) values. It is known that the standard potential,  $E^\circ$ , ~~defined as in (6)~~ defined in “Electrochemical methods”, Bard A.J. and Faulkner L.R., Wiley, New York. II ed. (2001), p. 3, shifts towards more positive values with respect to a reference molecule when its properties as electron-acceptor are improved with respect to the reference molecule.

Please amend page 8, lines 14-19, as follows:

The compounds of the invention and the corresponding radical anions can be advantageously used in the field of electroluminescence in general, in particular light emitting diodes (OLEDs); as components of molecular switching; for non-linear optics; in molecular-based computational systems (the latter described in Aviram, ref. (1) Aviram A., J. Am. Chem. Soc. (1988) 110, pp. 5687-92); in field-effect transistors (FET) (7)transistors (FET) Laquindanum J. G., Katz H. E., Dodabalapur A. and Lovinger A. J., J. Am. Chem. Soc., (1996) 118, pp. 11331-11332 and in semiconductors with negative differential resistance (NDR).

In the specification, please delete page 23 in its entirety.

## REFERENCES

1. Haas G. and Prelog V., *Helv. Chim. Acta* (1969) 52, pp. 1202-1218.
2. Aviram A., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* (1988) 110, pp. 5687-92.
3. "Molecular Electronics: science and technology" Aviram A. and Ratner M. editors, *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, Vol. 1852 (1998)
4. Gore P. H., *Chem. Rev.* (1955), 55, pp. 229-271.
5. "Organic Electrochemistry", Lund H. and Hammerich O. Eds., Marcel Dekker Inc, NY, 4<sup>a</sup> Ed., (2001).
6. "Electrochemical methods", Bard A.J. and Faulkner L.R., Wiley, New York. II ed. (2001), p. 3.
7. Laquindanum J. G., Katz H. E., Dodabalapur A. and Lovinger A. J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, (1996) 118, pp. 11331-11332.